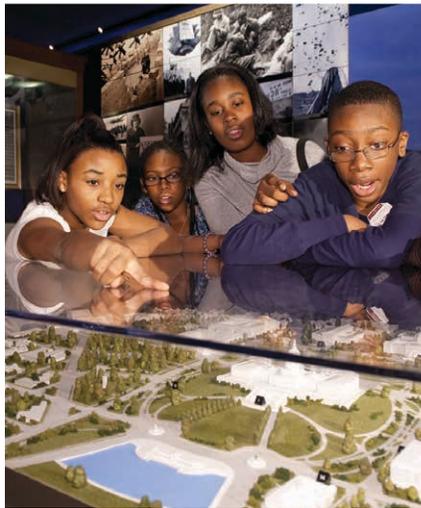
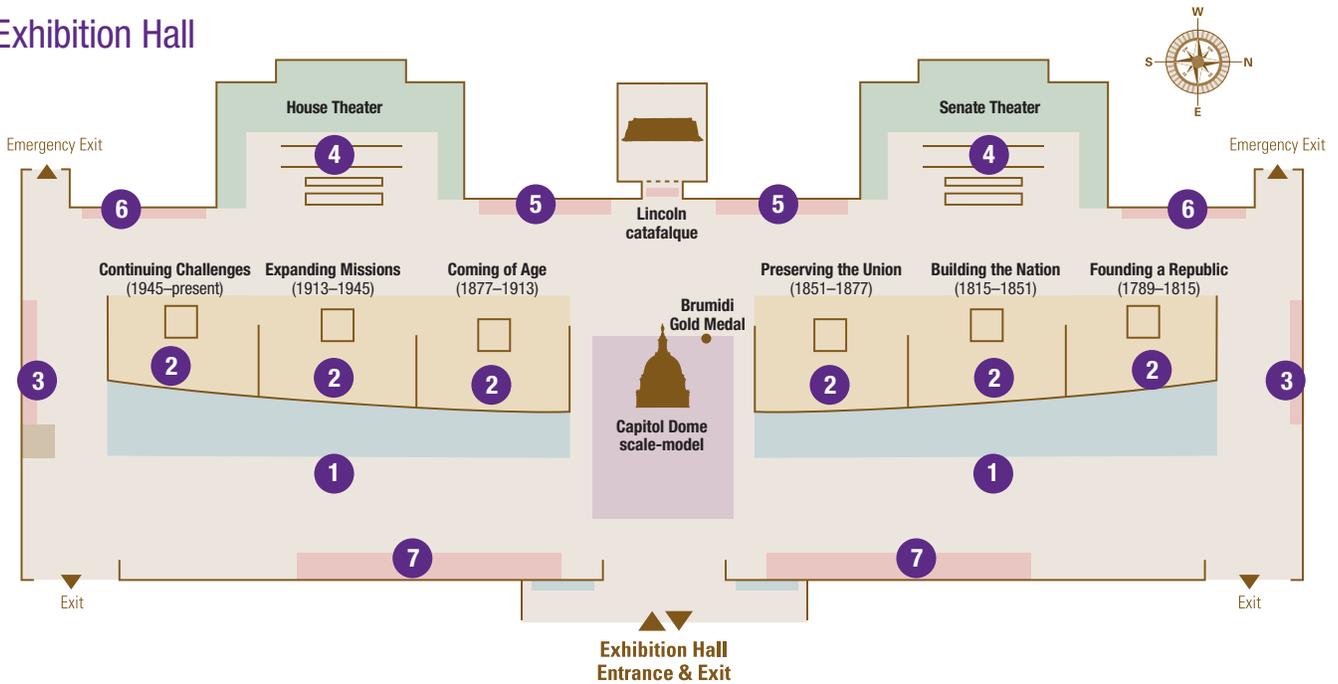


# *U.S. Capitol Visitor Center* EXHIBITION HALL



U.S. CAPITOL  
*visitor center*

# Exhibition Hall



**1 Changing Exhibits** at the entrance to Exhibition Hall illustrate how the work of Congress shapes the direction of the nation and affects the lives of citizens. Treasured documents from the National Archives, Library of Congress, and other institutions trace the history of congressional action, the role of citizens in a democratic process, and the evolving understanding of “We the People.”

**2 History of Congress and the Capitol** tells the story, in six chronological sections, of how Congress and the Capitol have grown and evolved with the country. Original artifacts, images, videos, architectural models, and artwork illustrate the history of the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the Capitol’s art and architecture. *See diagram at top right for details of alcove.*

**3 The Constitution and Congress** acknowledges the foundations of Congress in the Constitution, outlines the distinct roles of the House and the Senate, and explains the three branches of government.

**4 The House and Senate Theaters** provide live feeds from the floor of the House and Senate whenever they are in session. These theaters also present brief films about the differing operations of the two bodies of Congress.

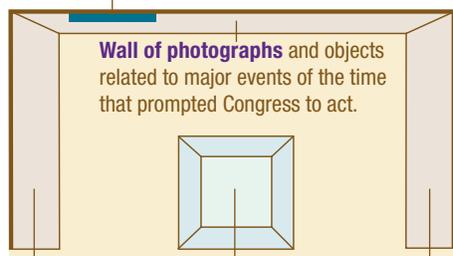
**5 The Nation’s Stage** highlights the role of the Capitol as the setting for inaugurations, funerals, presidential messages, visits by foreign leaders, parades, and protests. It also provides a special setting for one of the most poignant objects in the Capitol, the catafalque (the platform upon which President Lincoln’s casket rested in the Rotunda).



## 2 HISTORY OF CONGRESS AND THE CAPITOL ALCOVES

Six chronological alcoves tell the story of how Congress and the Capitol have grown and evolved with the country. The detail below explains what each alcove showcases.

A **video** highlights important legislation passed by Congress during the years showcased in this alcove.



The left display case highlights activities and Members of the **Senate**.

A **scale model** of the Capitol and Grounds that shows their expansion and architectural history.

The right display case highlights activities and Members of the **House of Representatives**.

## 6 Behind the Scenes

displays historical and contemporary images that tell the story of the staff who keep Capitol Hill working. From pages and police, to groundskeepers and Members' staffs, it looks at the "city within a city" that is the Capitol complex.



## 7 Your Congress/Your Capitol Interactive Area

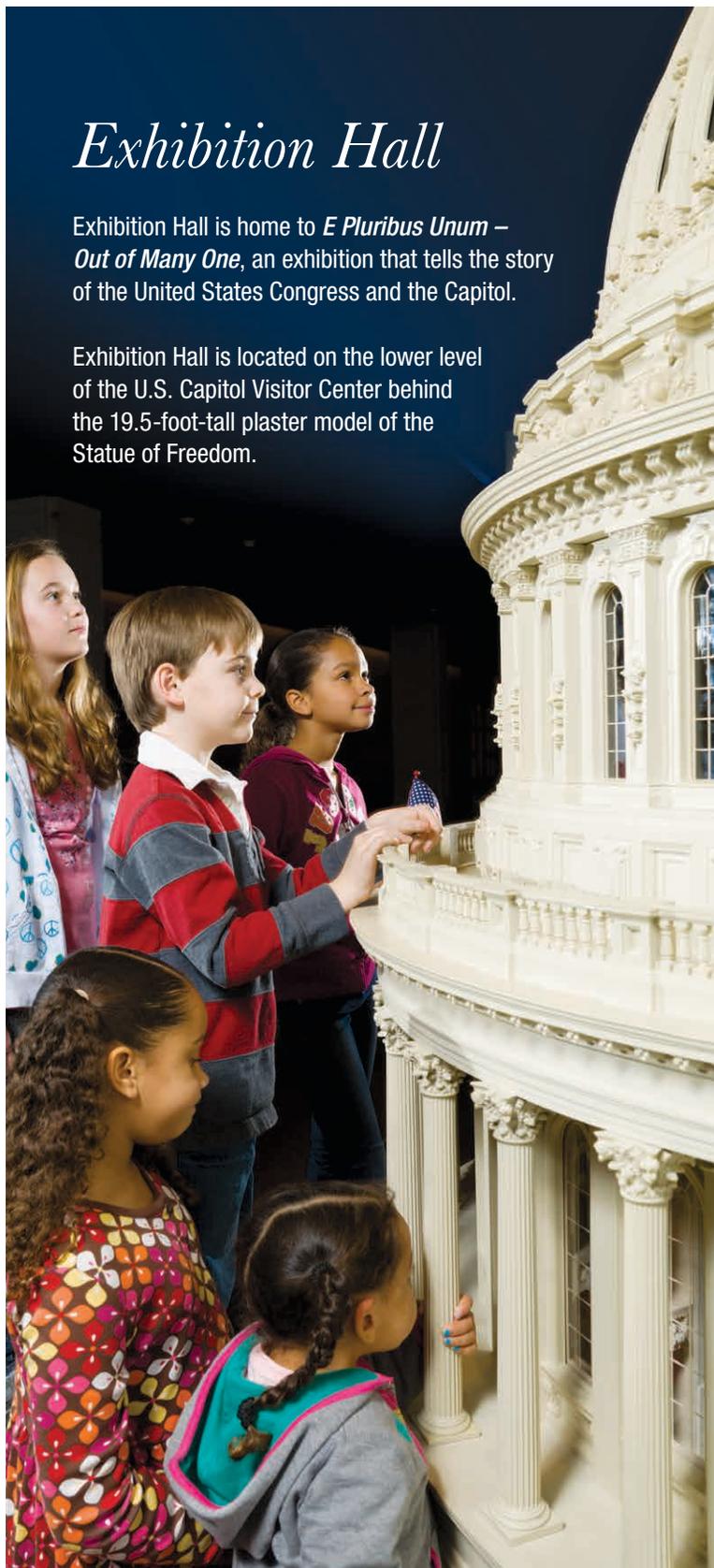
uses interactive stations to provide answers to questions such as "What are my state statutes?" and "Who are my representatives and how can I reach them?" The interactive stations also allow visitors to take a virtual tour through many of the Capitol's historic spaces and test their congressional knowledge with a challenging quiz.



# Exhibition Hall

Exhibition Hall is home to *E Pluribus Unum – Out of Many One*, an exhibition that tells the story of the United States Congress and the Capitol.

Exhibition Hall is located on the lower level of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center behind the 19.5-foot-tall plaster model of the Statue of Freedom.



## LET'S GO ON A SCAVENGER HUNT!

Begin at the entrance to Exhibition Hall.



See staff at the Exhibition Hall entrance for a Scavenger Hunt activity book.

## Student Self-Guide of Exhibition Hall

*My Capitol* includes historical background, activities, and questions to encourage discussion during a visit to Exhibition Hall or afterwards at home or school. It is available at the North Coat Check on the upper level of the Visitor Center and a PDF file may be downloaded at [www.visitthecapitol.gov/education/resources-and-activities](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/education/resources-and-activities).



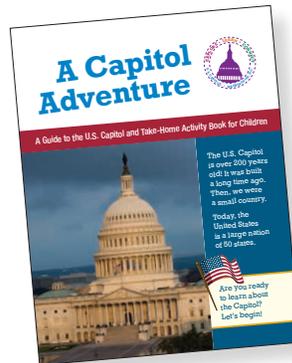
Designed for young people ages 11 and older.



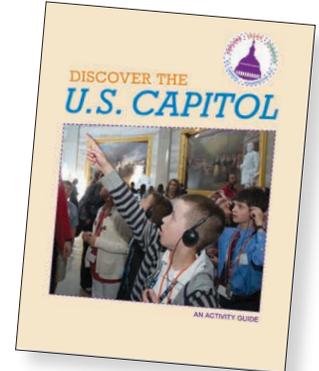
*My Capitol* is also an app with stop-by-stop highlights in Exhibition Hall and of the historic Capitol grounds. [www.visitthecapitol.gov/apps](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/apps)



**Especially for teachers:** Teachers may download resources to enrich lessons about the history of the Congress for use in the classroom at: [www.visitthecapitol.gov/education](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/education).



Designed for lower-level elementary-school-aged students.



Designed for upper-level elementary-school-aged students.

*Discover the U.S. Capitol* and *A Capitol Adventure* booklets have engaging activities related to locations in the United States Capitol and American history in general.

## Exhibition Hall Online



Explore the Capitol Visitor Center's online exhibition. Find out more about the fascinating artifacts and documents in Exhibition Hall that tell the story of the history of Congress and the building of the Capitol at [www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibit](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibit).





The United States Capitol is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Saturday. It is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, and Inauguration Day.

**Audio Descriptive Tour:** There is an audio descriptive tour of Exhibition Hall that is designed for visitors who are blind or have low vision. This tour covers 39 stops within Exhibition Hall and includes updated information on the documents.

Visitors may access the tour on a device available for check out at the North Information Desk in Emancipation Hall.

Visitors may also download the tour onto their personal devices from [www.visitthecapitol.gov](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov).

**International Visitors:** Visitors may request listening devices for foreign-language versions of the U.S. Capitol tour orientation film and the Exhibition Hall audio tour at the Information Desks.

[www.visitthecapitol.gov](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov)  
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*Thank you for visiting the U.S. Capitol.  
Your feedback is important to us. Share your experience at*  
**[www.visitthecapitol.gov/comments](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/comments)**



U.S. CAPITOL

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